



VOLUME IX, No. 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1976

PRICE \$2.00

THE לפני SHEKEL

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

The First National Jewish Medal

Currency Numbering System

Dating Israel's First Coins

Specialization in Collecting

Operation Jonathan Medal

Collector's Bookshelf

Hanukkah Medal Sell-Out

Club News



Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



OUR ORGANIZATION

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 499, FRESH MEADOWS STATION, FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11365

MORRIS BRAM, President

EDWARD SCHUMAN, Executive Vice President

GEORGE GILBERT, Secretary EDWARD JANIS, Treasurer

Vice Presidents:

HARRY FLOWER, SYDNEY BLUESTONE, BEN ABELSON

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**BEN M. ABELSON
SYDNEY BLUESTONE
MORRIS BRAM
HARRY FLOWER
GEORGE GILBERT
EDWARD JANIS**

**ARNOLD H. KAGAN
ROBERT MESSING
EDWARD SCHUMAN
NATHAN SOBEL
SIDNEY OLSON
IRVING RUDIN**

**MOE WEINSCHEL
MEL WACKS
STANLEY YULISH
Israel
ARIE KINDLER
YAAKOV MESHOREB
ELI SEMMELMAN**

Advisory Council: Presidents of all INS Clubs

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear six times a year with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to all related numismatic events.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics. The opinions of the authors are not necessarily those of the Association.

The Editor's Notebook . . .

We are grateful for the contributions of new columnists Roni Grad of Massachusetts; David Hendin of New York; Dr. Uriel Paul Federbush of Long Island, all of whom in 1976 are first-time columnists in The Shekel, enriching our knowledge of numismatics with their special ability to dramatize past events or to share stored special information . . . The Shekel was the first publication to bring you news of the selection of the American menorah for the 1976 Hanukkah coin and for many the photo of this coin in these pages will be the first time they will have seen this momentous numismatic celebration of the common heritage of Israelis and Americans . . . We are specially indebted to Dr. Federbush and The Numismatist, journal of the ANA, for the timely article, The First Jewish National Medal which appears in this final issue of the Bicentennial Year. It will be easy forever for us all to remember 1976 for one other great story which appeared in our 1976 issues (along with newspapers and magazines all over the world): the year that Israelis added the word "Entebbe" as a language symbol of Man's determination to be Free. — G. G.

GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*

ARIE KINDLER, *Numismatic Consultant*

YA'AKOV MESHORER, *Numismatic Consultant*

SYLVIA HAFFNER, *Associate Editor*

Editorial Board

MORRIS BRAM

DAVID HENDIN
ED JANIS

GEORGE GILBERT
DAVID SCHAEFFER

MEL WACKS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

The President's Message	2
The First National Jewish American Medal by Dr. Uriel Paul Federbush	3
The Date of Issue of the First Modern Israel Coin by Samuel Lachman	10
Variety Spices AINA West Coast Show	12
Coins of Ancient Israel by David Hendin	14
1976 Hanukkah Coins Sold Out	15
The Aleph Beth Page by Ed Janis	16
Judaean Jottings (<i>Rex Aretas</i>) by Mel Wacks	17
Gold Judaic Coins by Harry Flower	21
Some Jewish Community Tokens by Robert Schonwalter	23
Specializing . . . or Collecting What <i>You</i> Like by Alan Weinberg	24
Comparison Numbering System for Israel Currency by Carl Rosenblum	26
Club News	29
The Israel Coin Collector's Book Shelf by Dr. Uriel Paul Federbush..	31
Operation Jonathan Medal Announced	Back Cover

Copyright © 1976 by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
All Rights Reserved.

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. / An Educational Informational Non-Profit Organization: Published six times a year. Membership \$8.00 per year. Send all remittances, undelivered magazines, change of address and zip code with old address label to P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, New York 11365.

Printed in the U. S. A.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



Like most other Americans, the American Bicentennial Celebration reached a special high point of exhilaration when the electrifying news reached us from a place we never knew existed: Entebbe . . . an airport point where Israeli commandos staged a thrilling rescue of hostages.

Now in our way we share in this thrilling event by our numismatic support of Israel with our purchases and promotion of the Entebbe Medal, the numismatic recognition of *Operation Jonathan*. I can tell you that this will be another Hanukkah coin in that you must act NOW if you wish to add the gold medal to your collection: The cut-off date is March 1, 1977. Orders will be accepted now for the bronze and silver editions though these have an unannounced cutoff date.

Your understanding of the importance of the Hanukkah issue has been dramatized by the total sell-out of the offering . . . with hundreds of collectors (if not thousands) disappointed in their receipt of their checks instead of the coins. *They acted too late!* No dealer will have the Hanukkah coins which further indicates the totality of the numismatic acceptance of this issue. You can well imagine how proud I am of the role that AINA played in this coin's design. You'll read the full story elsewhere in this *Shekel*.

Only days ago I was one of the guests at the Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention sponsored by AINA. A wonderful team effort was conducted among the four (now five) southern California Israel collector groups. The convention was made successful under the chairmanship of Ben Abelson and the many, many

club leaders and supporters who contributed to the total effort. The strong desire of many to make this effort a success for AINA for the local groups was evidenced in the warm feelings and sincere effort by so many unpaid volunteers.

The AINA banquet was commemorated by a special medal struck for the occasion. (You can see it as part of the Convention story in this issue). After the AINA banquet at the ANA Convention this summer, each club was sent one medal as a gift from AINA. An accompanying letter asked only that each club know how it might use this gift (*as part of a club's permanent collection? as an award to a guest? as a way to honor a club officer? as an item for a club auction to support club activities?*) The option was the club's.

Once again I am sending a medal to the clubs. This time, the medal is being sent ONLY to the clubs which responded to the *first request* and to the *first gift medal mailing*. If you are a club member, or a club officer, I hope you'll ask to see the Los Angeles banquet medal. If you club does NOT have one, *now you know why*: someone was not acting promptly.

With Mr. Avni, I had a memorable visit to a meeting of the INS of San Francisco, a meeting attended by nearly fifty members. This club is among the oldest of the INS groups and it has conducted a broad range of educational programs. I thank them for their hospitality and look forward to a repeat visit one day.

Welcome to 1977. *We've got So Much To Do.*

Shalom,
Morris Bram, president

THE FIRST NATIONAL JEWISH-AMERICAN MEDAL



IT COMMEMORATED THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ARRIVAL OF JEWS IN NEW AMSTERDAM

by Dr. Uriel Paul Federbush

AINA 141, ANA 84150

In 1905 at the behest of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York (the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States), and the American Jewish Historical Society in Cincinnati, a committee was convened to prepare for the celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Jewish Settlement in the United States. In addition to arrangement for a celebration, establishment of a permanent memorial to that historic episode was planned.¹ The desire to memorialize this event eventually led to the issuance of a commemorative medal. Previously medals had been struck by local Jewish groups bearing portraits of individual Jews or commemorating events of Jewish importance. However, this was to be the first nation-wide medallion expression by the American Jewish community.

Jews began settling in the New World shortly after its discovery. The Inquisition in Spain and Portugal spurred the Jewish exodus, and significant colonies were established in South America. In 1654 when the Dutch colony of Brazil came under Portuguese control, many Jews again

had to seek new places of refuge. In that same year a group of twenty-three of these refugees arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam on the French naval ship *St. Charles*. Their arrival was somewhat inauspicious, as having been robbed during their journey, they could only pay part of their passage money. The Dutch magistrates allowed the French captain to hold two of the passengers hostage against the possibly insufficient proceeds to be derived from an auction of the Jews' possessions.

They also met a hostile reception from the governor, Peter Stuyvesant, who repeatedly tried to expel the newcomers. He wrote to the directors of the Dutch West India Company on September 22, 1654, that he had asked the Jews "in a friendly way to depart," but that they refused to go. He therefore petitioned that they "be not allowed to infest and trouble this new colony." Despite the need for settlers, he was prejudiced against all newcomers except members of the Dutch and Presbyterian churches. Lutherans had difficulty with him, and Catholics and Quakers were not allowed in the colony. Only one Jew, Jacob Barsimson, apparently a representative of European fur traders and thus not a permanent settler, lived in Nieuw Amsterdam at the time.²

However, beginning about 1593, when The Netherlands succeeded in gaining independence from Spain, various localities began welcoming Jews as settlers.³ They became prominent in commerce, and when the Dutch West India Company was founded in 1620, some Jews became influential stockholders, and subsequently directors. It was no doubt this influence, plus the fact that these settlers had fought for Holland in South America, which led the Company to reprimand Stuyvesant and to issue the Grant of Official Leave of Settlement dated April 26, 1655, as follows:

We would have like to agree to your wishes and request . . . but after having further weighed and considered the matter, we observe that it would be unreasonable and

unfair, especially because of the considerable loss sustained by the Jews in the taking of Brazil, and also because of the large amount of capital which they have invested in shares of this company. After many consultations we have decided and resolved upon a certain petition made by said Portuguese Jews, that they shall have permission to sail to and trade in New Netherland and to live and remain there . . . You will govern yourself accordingly.

The Celebration of 250 Years

The celebration in 1905 was thus for the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first authorized Jewish settlement within the present United States. The planning committee, national in scope, was assembled under the chairmanship of Jacob H. Schiff. Serving were men of the caliber of Guggenheim, Lewisohn, Marshall, Pereira Mendes, Seligman, Straus, and Sultzberger. These were the most illustrious leaders in American Jewry; Oscar S. Straus being the first Jew to enter the Cabinet of a President of the United States, serving as Secretary of Commerce and Labor under Theodore Roosevelt. Representatives from all the states, the major cities, and even from the Indian Territory served on the General Committee.

Arrangements were made to hold the principal public ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City, on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1905. Local exercises and religious services were to be held throughout the country at the same time. A special Order of Service was prepared and used in synagogues in all parts of the nation. Thanksgiving Day was thought particularly appropriate for the celebration, which stressed the freedoms enjoyed by Jews in America throughout its history.

The program at Carnegie Hall featured as its main speaker ex-President Grover Cleveland. He emphasized the importance of the occasion saying "that every thoughtful American citizen must recognize the fitness and usefulness of its commem-



Arrival of the first Jews in New Amsterdam in 1654.

oration." He went on to enumerate Jewish contributions to American history, and to decry prejudice stating "there can be no place for it among the people of the United States, unless they are heedless of good faith, recalcitrant to the underlying principles of their free government, and insensible to every pledge involved in our boasted equality of citizenship."⁴

A letter from President Roosevelt was also read. After stating in his usual no-nonsense manner that it was not his policy to write letters "on the occasion of any celebration, no matter how important," he explained he was making an exception in this case. He pointed to the "Jewish participation in the up-building of this country," from colonial times onward, and further stated that he was "glad to be able to say... that while the Jews of the United States, who now number more than a million, have remained loyal to their faith and their traditions, they have become indissolubly incorporated in the great army of American citizenship, prepared to make all sacrifice for the country, either in war or peace, and striving for the perpetuation of good government and for the maintenance of the principles embodied in our Constitution."⁵

As has been mentioned, another aspect of the celebration was to have been the erection of a suitable memorial. A fund of more than one hundred thousand dollars was to have been collected for this purpose. A Committee on Memorial was appointed and that committee contacted Isidore Konti, a noted sculptor, to design a monumental fountain to be located on the plaza at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Ninth Street.⁶

The Medal

However, then as now, Jews were suffering and being persecuted in Russia. It was the time of the Pogroms. Therefore, although a considerable sum had been raised for the memorial, the Executive Committee on November 12, 1905, resolved that "the demands on the generosity of the Jews of America, necessitated by the horrors resulting from the recent massacres in Russia, make it imperative that every energy be directed to the relief of our unfortunate brethren there." At this meeting payment was also authorized to Mr. Moses, the architect, and to Messrs. Konti and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the sculptors, for any claim they might have on the Memorial Fund. Moral claims were to be recog-



*Jacob H. Schiff
He Paid the Bill*

nized, as no legal liability existed. Thus the Memorial Fund was abolished, with donors being urged to support the Russian Relief Fund.⁷

With the cancellation of the projected monument, some other means to commemorate the anniversary was sought. A book was published containing the addresses delivered at the Carnegie Hall program as well as elsewhere in the nation; press editorials from newspapers throughout the country; and notes regarding American-Jewish history. A medal was issued as well, which was illustrated as the frontispiece of the volume. It was stated that "an anonymous donor" had defrayed the cost of the medal.⁸ In fact, however, the entire cost was borne by Jacob H. Schiff, the chairman, who had proposed its issue. The medal was to be designed by Isidore Konti, and would embody his design of "Intolerance hiding behind Justice and Liberty," with the American eagle appearing on the obverse. The committee would propose the legend to appear on the medal, and Schiff suggested something like "where Justice and Liberty reign, Intolerance disappears." The charge by Konti for making the die was \$1200.⁹

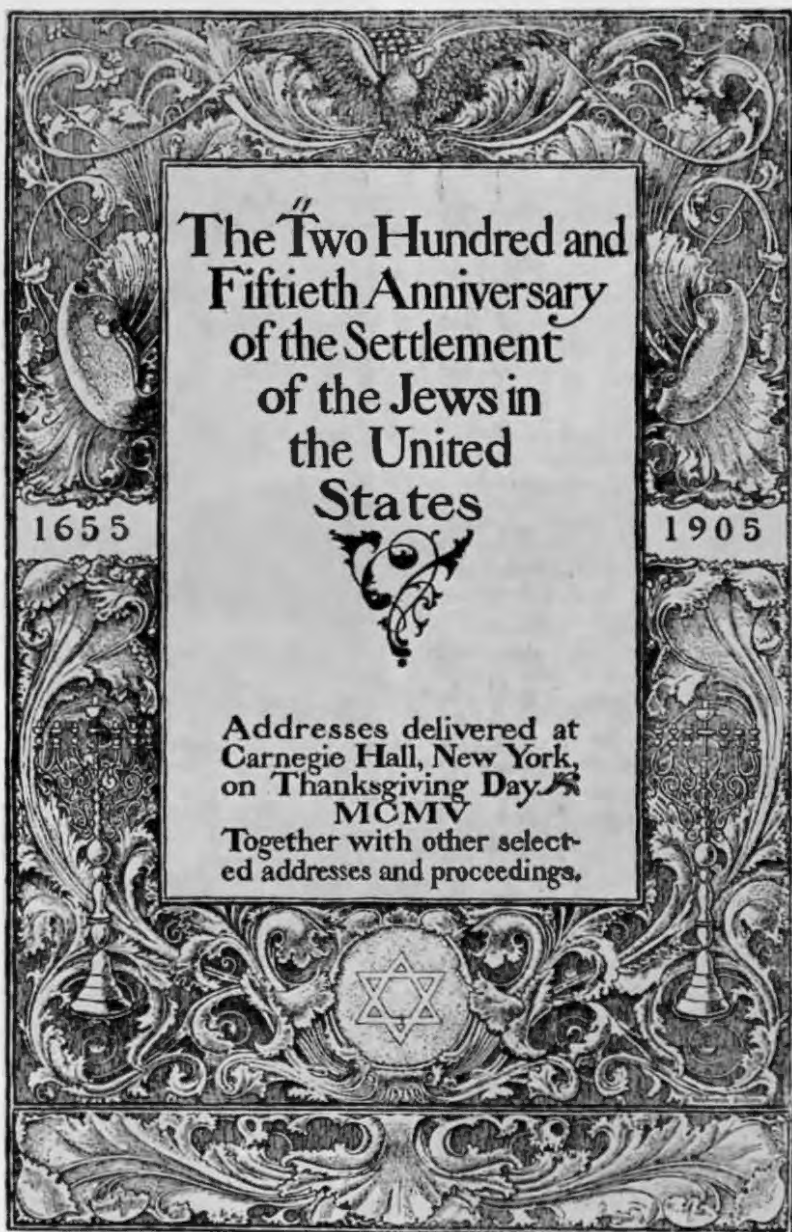
Schiff's plan was to have two gold medals struck for presentation to Presi-



*Theodore Roosevelt
... he broke precedent*

dent Roosevelt and ex-President Cleveland, with silver and bronze medals also struck for presentation purposes. No medals would be for sale. On February 1, 1906, a meeting was held at Konti's studio to finalize the design for the medal. A memorandum from Deutsch Bros., the minters, was also discussed. The price for striking the medals would amount to \$3.25 each in bronze; \$10 each in silver; and \$25 each in gold plus the cost of the gold required, which would come to approximately \$300 each. Approval was given to proceed with the project.¹⁰

The medal is 76 mm. in diameter, and 4 mm. in thickness. The silver medal is 211.5 gm. in weight; the bronze weighs 225 gm. The subject of the composition on the obverse is The Triumph of Liberty and Justice Over Intolerance. Three allegorical female figures are portrayed. Liberty is depicted as standing, a sword in her hand. Justice is seated, with a scroll on her lap representing the law, and in front and beneath them is a cowering figure, bent low, representing Intolerance. Around the edge is the inscription: COMMEMORATING • THE • 250 • ANNIVERSARY • OF • JEWISH • SETTLEMENT • IN • THE • UNITED • STATES. In smaller letters: Isidore Konti sc.



The Two Hundred and
Fiftieth Anniversary
of the Settlement
of the Jews in
the United
States



Addresses delivered at
Carnegie Hall, New York,
on Thanksgiving Day.

MCMV

Together with other select-
ed addresses and proceedings.

*Book issued to commemorate Carnegie Hall
250th Anniversary Celebration November 30, 1905.*

The reverse portrays History standing, a stylus in her right hand, holding a tablet with her left on which have been recorded the dates commemorated, 1655 and 1905. Behind and above the female figure is a spread-winged American eagle representing the United States. To the left a sapling represents the growth and the taking root of the new settlement. In exergue, IK 1905. The Hebrew inscription around the edge reads in transliteration: *HaHerut Moledet Hashamayim Tzedek Umishpat Machon Kisah*. This freely translates as: "Freedom is Heaven Born — Justice and Righteousness Are the Foundations of Her Throne."¹¹ The second half is taken from Psalms 97:2, although the quote is not exact. The first half is written in poor and stilted Hebrew. This was noted in the 1937 exhibition catalog of the Berlin Jewish Museum. It calls the language used "barbaric."¹² The concept underlying the phrase is not found in any biblical source, and the word used for freedom — *herut* — does not appear in Hebrew until Talmudic times, i.e., the third to sixth centuries.¹³

The medal was also exhibited and illustrated in the catalogue of the International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals held by the American Numismatic Society in March 1910.¹⁴

A silver example is presently in the possession of the New York Public Library, where it is kept in the locked Rare Book Room. Bronze examples are presently in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art,¹⁵ Minneapolis Institute of Arts, The Jewish Museum, The Spertus Museum in Chicago, and others.

The presentation of the gold medals were made by Oscar S. Straus to President Roosevelt and ex-President Cleveland in May 1906. The specimen given Cleveland is presently in the collection of a foremost American collector. The location of the Roosevelt specimen is unknown to all the institutions containing his memorabilia.

The total mintage was: 2 Gold, 36 Silver, and 284 Bronze. Their distribution was as follows:



Sculptor Isidore Konti

Gold:

President Roosevelt
Ex-President Cleveland

Silver:

Executive Committee
American Jewish Historical Society
Jewish Historical Society of England
(Mocatta Museum)
Smithsonian Institution
Harvard Semitic Museum
New York Historical Society
New York Public Library (Lenox Lyceum)
American Numismatic & Archeological Society
Hebrew Union College
Vice President Fairbanks
Governor Higgins
Mayor McClellan
Bishop Greer
Dr. Frank Damrosch
Mr. Saint-Gaudens
Mr. Richard H. Hunt
Mr. H. A. MacNeil
Mr. Chas. R. Lamb
Mr. Isidore Konti
Mr. Lionel Moses II
United States Mint, Philadelphia

Bronze:

Distributed to the General Committee, museums, organizations, and individuals throughout the country and overseas.¹⁶

The Medallist

Isidore Konti, the medallist, was a known sculptor, working in New York. He was born in Vienna in 1862, and received his early training at the Imperial Academy there. He came to the United States in 1892. The strongest influence on his work was the style of the *Ecole des Beaux Arts*, and he followed the leadership of men such as Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Daniel Chester French. In 1893 Saint-Gaudens organized an "army of artists that had not been gathered since the Renaissance" to work on decorations for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Among them was Isidore Konti. Konti also worked on sculpture for the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo (1901), and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis (1904). He was awarded a gold medal for his work *The Despotism Age*, at the latter, and in 1909 he was elected an Academician Member of the National Academy of Design.

In 1914 he did a monumental sculpture for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, and in 1926 he completed a large allegorical group for the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia. One of his public sculptures is atop the Pulitzer Fountain at Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Ninth Street in New York. Other public works of his are to be found in Yonkers, N.Y., where he spent his final years.

He is represented by sculpture in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The National Museum of Art, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.¹⁷ His work has been described as of "unusual sensitivity and idealized realism,"¹⁸ and his monuments are said to have "great distinction . . . and grace."¹⁹

Konti's output as a medallist was sparse.

In addition to the medal described, he designed the Joseph H. Isidor Gold Medal in 1907, which is still awarded annually by the National Academy of Design for the best figure composition in oil by an American artist. He also designed the second medal in a series issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion in 1910, entitled *Home*. A work that he did in 1909 may also be classified as part of his medallist output. This consisted of a group of four thirty inch high bronze medallions, *Peace*, *Law*, *Patriotism*, and *Enlightenment*, which are set into the ceiling of the building of the Pan-American Union in Washington. The themes portrayed on the medallions are exactly like those depicted on the Anniversary Medal, which doubtless served as the model.

In 1975, The Hudson River Museum organized an extensive Konti retrospective exhibition. The booklet published for that occasion serves as a *Catalogue Raisonné* of his work.²⁰

The medal commemorating 250 years of Jewish settlement in America serves as a reminder that the birth of the American nation, and the Constitution of the United States that followed, eliminated any prejudice in our political philosophy because of the differing religions of our country's inhabitants. Ours was the first nation to confer full equality of citizenship on the Jews, during a time when not a single European country had done so. There is a close parallel between the first American settlers, and the first Jews allowed to settle Nieuw Amsterdam, now New York, for both came to these shores to be free of the inequities in the old societies. In this Bicentennial year it is right that we should evoke recognition of our past history, and in turn evoke our gratitude for the precious freedom we have earned.

FOOTNOTES

1. *The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Jews in the United States* (New York: The New York Co-operative Society, 1906), p. v.
2. Heinrich Graetz, *History of the Jews*, Vol. 4 (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1949), p. 350 ff.
3. Solomon Garsenz, *A History of the Jews* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1950), p. 502 ff.
4. *The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary*, p. 16.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 19.
6. Archives of the American Jewish Historical Society, Minutes of the Anniversary Executive Committee, October 16, 1905.
7. *Ibid.*, November 12, 1905.
8. *The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary*, p. x.
9. Archives of the American Jewish Historical Society, Minutes of the Anniversary Executive Committee, December 11, 1905.
10. *Ibid.*, February 1, 1906.
11. *The American Hebrew*, April 27, 1906.
12. Moritz Stern, *Aus dem Berliner Jüdischen Museum* (Berlin: Philo Verlag, 1937), p. 76.
13. Eliezer Ben Yehuda, *A Complete Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Hebrew* (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1959).
14. *Catalogue of the International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals* (New York: American Numismatic Society, 1911), pp. 162-163.
15. Albert Gardner, *American Sculpture: A Catalogue of the Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art* (Greenwich: New York Graphic Society, 1965), p. 80.
16. Archives of the American Jewish Historical Society, Records of the Anniversary Executive Committee.
17. Wayne Craven, *Sculpture in America* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1968), p. 398.
18. Charles Caffin, *American Masters of Sculpture* (New York: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1913), p. 205.
19. Lorado Taft, *The History of American Sculpture* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1903), pp. 464, 548.
20. *The Sculpture of Isidore Konti 1862-1938* (Yonkers, N.Y.: The Hudson River Museum, 1974).

THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE FIRST MODERN ISRAEL COIN

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

Much has been written about Israel's first modern coin, but the date of its issue to date has not been published. The laws governing the issue of coins in Israel have also not been previously published in numismatic literature.

The 25 mils coin is known with dates 5708 and 5709. The year 5709 began on 4 October 1948. The catalogues list these dates as 1948 and 1949.

The Coin Ordinance was published in the *Official Gazette* No. 39 of 22 Kislev 5709/24 December 1948, supplement A, page 83 and reads as follows (translated from Hebrew):

COIN ORDINANCE

No. 27 of year 5709 - 1948

The Temporary Government legislates as follows:

Issue of Coins

1. a. The Temporary Government is authorized to issue from time to time coins of metal according to the law.
- b. The denominations of the coins, their alloy, their weight, and other particulars of the coins will be decided by the Minister of Finance.

Coins—Legal Tender

2. The coins issued under this ordinance are legal tender according to their denomination under the following restrictions:

- a. Coins under 50 pruta — for payments of any amount which does not exceed 500 pruta.
- b. Coins of fifty pruta or more but less than 500 pruta — for the payment of any amount which does not exceed five Israel lirot.
- c. Coins of 500 pruta — for payment of any amount which does not exceed ten Israel lirot.

"Pruta" means the thousands part of the Israel Lira.

Regulations about the issue and withdrawal of coins etc.

3. The Minister of Finance is authorized to issue from time to time regulations which will be published in the *Official Gazette*
 - a. concerning the issue, denomina-

tions, and the exchange of coins, according to this ordinance.

- b. which restrict or abolish the use of coins which were issued under the Order in Council about the coinage of Palestine (E.I.) 1927, or the law about their being legal tender.

Law about damaged coins and counterfeit coins.

4. a. A damaged coin cannot serve as legal tender. A "damaged coin" is a coin which is defaced, not due to ordinary use, or on which some word or something else was added by engraving or striking, or that the weight diminished below the minimum weight prescribed by the Minister of Finance.
- b. The Minister of Finance is authorized to confiscate a damaged coin, against payment of compensation to the holder of the coin, or without payment, according to what appears justified in the circumstances of each case.
- c. A certificate from the Minister of Finance or by any person authorized by him in writing, will serve in any enquiry, legal or otherwise, as sufficient evidence that the coin to which the certificate refers is genuine, damaged, or counterfeit.

Implementation and regulations

5. The Minister of Finance is responsible for the implementation of this ordinance. He is authorized to issue regulations —

- a. in the matter of the minting of the coins, preparation of the dies, and their safeguarding
- b. in the matter of withdrawal from circulation and destruction of damaged and counterfeit coins
- c. in any other matter concerning the ordinance.

Name

6. This ordinance will be called "Coin Ordinance 5709 — 1948."

21 Kislev 5709 (23 December 1948)

Felix Rosenblüth
Minister of Justice
David Ben-Gurion
Prime Minister
Eliezer Kaplan
Minister of Finance



The *Official Gazette* No. 10 of 11 April 1949, contains the following announcement (translated from Hebrew):

Coin Ordinance 5709 — 1948.

Announcement about the Issue of Coins.

After the Government decided to exercise its power to issue coins of metal according to para 1(a) of the Coins Ordinance 5709 — 1948, prescribed the Minister of Finance, according to para 1(b) of the same ordinance, that the coins which will be issued now, will be of 25 mils. The alloy of the coins, their weight, their design, and all other particulars will be identical with the specimen kept by the issuing department of the Anglo-Palestine Bank Limited.

7 Nisan 5709 (6 April 1949).

Eliezer Kaplan
Minister of Finance.

The Israel newspaper *Davar* of 7 April 1949 has the following story (translated from Hebrew):

ISRAEL COINS OF 25 MILS WERE PLACED INTO CIRCULATION

Coins of 25 mils showing the name Israel were issued yesterday by the Anglo-Palestine Bank.

After many efforts, the government agreed to issue in order to ease the pressure caused by the shortage of prutot. The coins were already struck several months ago. They bear the name Israel in Hebrew, and Arabic and show a bunch of grapes. On the reverse appears 25 MILS in Hebrew and Arabic and the year 5709.

In a few weeks coins in all denominations will be issued, which will arrive in the meantime from England.

It is therefore clear that the coins of both dates were issued on 6 April 1949. The newspaper did not know that there were coins bearing the date 5708.

The coins were withdrawn from circulation in 1950. This was notified in the *Official Gazette* No. 108 of 24

Elul 5710 (6 September 1950)
(translated from Hebrew):

Coin Ordinance 5709 — 1948

Notice about the withdrawal of coins.

It is hereby notified that the government decided to withdraw the metal coins of 25 mils which were issued under the Coin Ordinance 5709 — 1948, and a notification about their alloy, weight, design, and other particulars was published in the *Official Gazette* No. 10 of 12 Nisan 5709 (11 April 1949), p. 196.

19 Av 5710 (2 August 1950).

Hanna Even-Tov.
for the Secretary of the Government.



ISRAEL'S 50-POUND NOTE NOW CIRCULATED WITH BLUE SERIAL NUMBERS

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

Israel's 50-pound note with the portrait of Chaim Weizman on the obverse, and the Knesset building on the reverse was originally issued on 13 January 1972 with black serial numbers. Prefixes are Hebrew letters Nun, Samakh, Ain, Pe, Zade, Kuf, and Resh.

At the end of October 1976, the notes were issued with blue serial numbers. So far prefixes Hebrew letters Aleph and Beth have been noted. These are not the expected small size notes.

VARIETY SPICES AINA WEST COAST SHOW

A full roster of exciting numismatic events attracted collectors attending the Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention, reported General Chairman Ben Abelson. The convention, sponsored by the American Israel Numismatic Association, was held at the Los Angeles Hilton hotel, Nov. 11-14.

On hand for the show were such notables as AINA President Morris Bram and Yitzhak Avni, director general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.

The educational forum, was chaired by moderator Eva Adams, presented three speakers, drawn from the Southern California numismatic community, from Miami, Fla., and from Sidney, Ohio.

Former ANA President Herbert M. Bergen, Fullerton, Calif., examined an area which is frequently a source of lively debate among numismatists, "Numismatics-Hobby and/or Investment?"

"Israel Numismatics — There and Here" was the topic of *Coin World* International Editor David Thomason Alexander, who reviewed Israel numismatics as seen in the Holy Land during the Eighth Annual Study Tour to Israel, and in his travels around the U. S. for the Sidney, Ohio, numismatic weekly newspaper.

AINA board member Ed Schuman, past president of the Israel Numismatic Society of Greater Miami, Fla., and widely known expert in the field, explored "Off Beat Judaica," areas of interest beyond coins and bank notes which are becoming increasingly popular among collectors across the nation.

Saturday, Nov. 13, featured the Junior Numismatist Seminar, chaired by well known Israel numismatic leader Donna Sims of the Israel Numismatic Society of the San Fernando Valley.

Mrs. Sims' seminar presented a full range of basics for young collectors, including how to start a collection, how to exhibit, dealer-collector relations, and proper handling of coins.

Paying close attention to topical and specialized collecting, Mrs. Sims' group received particular instruction in starting an Israel collection, as well as a Mexican or a British World collection. A speech contest among the junior numismatists was followed by a luncheon for the participants in the junior gathering.

IGCMC Director General Yitzhak Avni, presented one of his characteristically forceful speeches about the present and future of Israel numismatics, according to Abelson, at the Saturday banquet.

The presentation of exhibit awards was a highlight of the banquet, with exhibits chairman Philip B. D. Parks on hand to congratulate the winning exhibitors.

The first twelve panels of the Kagan-Maremba Collection of Israel State medals, assembled by catalog-publisher Arnold Kagan and members of the Kagan, Katz and Youner families was displayed.

Sunday, Nov. 14 saw a special AINA workshop under the direction of numismatic writer and researcher Mel Wacks. The workshop examined aspects of organizational work in an Israel numismatic organization. Wacks is a leader in the busy Israel numismatic clubs of Southern California.

Supporting the event were Israel coin clubs of Los Angeles, San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys, San Francisco and Sacramento. Formally inaugurated during the Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention was a new group, the Israel Numismatic Society of Los Angeles.

Conducting the auction held during the AINA Los Angeles gathering was Bowers and Rudy Galleries, which offered the second part of the C. W. Krugjohann collection and other choice numismatic offerings. Between the Bowers and Ruddy auction and the 60 dealers with reserved bourse tables, the Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention had something for every collector, said bourse chairman William A. Sadler of Inglewood, Calif.



Ed Schuman (l.) and Ben Abelson, Chairman of the GLACC with speaker's trophy presented to Schuman for his lecture at Educational Forum.



Y. Avni of Jerusalem and David Alexander of Coin World at special display of IGCAM at Los Angeles convention.



Morris Bram surrounded by young numismatists at special Youth Day activities at Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention.



L. to R.: Morris Bram, Y. Avni; Eva Adams and Ben Abelson at the GLACC Banquet.

EXHIBIT WINNERS

BEST OF SHOW—William D. Koonce; "The Orders of Serbia"; **BEST OF ISRAEL**—Mike Sims, "The Volunteer's Medal"; **ISRAEL COINS**—Milton M. Fishgold, "Israel's First Coin"; **ISRAEL MEDALS & TOKENS**—Milton M. Fishgold, "Israel's New Years Greetings"; **ISRAEL PAPER MONEY**—Sidney L. Olson, "Israeli Military Script"; **WORLD COINS**—Jose Castaneda, "Eagles on Mexican Crowns"; **WORLD MEDALS & TOKENS**—Connie Sharp, "Norman Rockwell's Medallion Tribute to Robert Frost"; **WORLD PAPER MONEY**—Jim Warmus, "South Korean Paper Money"; **JUNIOR CATEGORY**—Mike Sims, "The Volunteer's Medal"; **SPECIAL GENERAL**—Jim Sharp, "Papua New Guinea, A New Nation" and **ORDERS & DECORATIONS**—William D. Koonce, "The Orders of Serbia."

INVITATION EXHIBITS: Arnold H. Kagan, "The Kagan-Maremba Collection" and Richard Strley, "Simulated Coins of Japan Back to 796 A.D."

A second and third place winner was given to the "Junior Category" and was presented at the Young Numismatists Seminar. No second and third were given in any other category. 2nd place Jr. Category: Oscar A. Lopez for "10 Medals of the Yanez Mint" and 3rd place, Jr. Category: Michelle Sharp for "Happy Birthday America."



L. to R.: A. H. Kagan, Y. Avni, Edna Kagan and Morris Bram at the first display in history of elements of the Kagan-Maremba Collection.



Banquet medal issued to all who attended.

COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



Among the most interesting and sought after coins of ancient Israel are those which bear the countermarks of the Roman legions that occupied the area.

The best known of these is the *Legio Decima Fretensis*, or the Tenth Roman Legion.

The marks of this legion can be found on some ceramic tiles as well as on Greek and Greek Imperial coins that circulated in the area of Ancient Israel from about 68 C.E. to 132 C.E. at the latest, according to research reported by Dan Barag, reported at the International Numismatic Convention in Jerusalem, 1963.

That was more than 13 years ago, yet Barag's article is one of the best and most current major articles written on the ancient Legionary Countermarks found in and near Israel. Perhaps this striking lack of literature will give some budding numismatist an interest in studying and writing about this area.

Actually, relatively little is known about ancient countermarks altogether, and even something as simple as the reason for countermarking coins in ancient times has long been a subject of discussion among numismatists.

C. M. Kraay is quoted as observing that:

"Conjectures upon the date and purpose of countermarks have been many and varied; to prolong the life of worn coins, to extend a restricted area of circulation, to meet some war-like emergency when normal supplies were interrupted, to proclaim revolt or to protest against the established government, to honor dead emperors or to complete the titulatures of living ones—all these theories, and more, have been championed and the truth must surely lie somewhere among them."



The Tenth Roman Legion countermarked its coins in a number of ways. Among the countermarks used by this legion are the galley and the boar and dolphin, legionary symbols. Also the letters LEX, LXF, LX, XF and simply X were used in various ways.

The *Legio Decima Fretensis* probably acquired its name *Fretensis* from the *Fretum Siculum*, the straits where the legion fought in the Sicilian War against Sextus Pompeius in 36 B.C.E. Later the troops of the Tenth Legion were transferred to Syria, where they probably remained based until they were ordered south to help make up the forces that General Vespasian led against Akko and other northern cities in Israel in his campaign of 66 C.E.

The Tenth Legion also make up a good part of the force that destroyed Jerusalem under Titus in 70 C.E. and three years later the same unit besieged and caused the destruction of the Zealot fortress Massada.

The Tenth Legion became the permanent unit of the Roman Province of Judaea and after the Bar Kochba War, the Tenth was garrisoned in Aelia Capitolina, as Jerusalem was renamed by Hadrian. A number of tiles with the inscription LEXFR have been found in and around Jerusalem,

Continued on page 32



1976 HANUKKAH COINS SOLD OUT WITHIN 10 DAYS

The 1976 Hanukkah medal started with an idea presented to Yitzhak Avni by members of the Board of AINA back in 1974. They suggested that it was fitting to use the Hanukkah celebration and the existing series of Israel's 10 pound holiday coins to create a numismatic item at a time when America was also celebrating its own 200th Anniversary.

When the agreement was reached in Israel, a search began which led to homes, synagogues and museums in many of the states of the original thirteen from which America was formed. An authentic American *menorah* was required.

A number of individuals participated in the active effort to locate a *menorah* related to America's earliest days. Calls and visits were made to important centers of Judaica where AINA and its representatives learned that the early Jews had brought with them important examples of the *menorah* design art from Central Europe.

A rumor that a Paul Revere *menorah* existed brought little proof; no example or a photograph that such a distinguished example of that famed silversmith's art was ever in the form of a Jewish ceremonial piece could be located.

It was in the Jewish Museum in New York City that an authentically American *menorah* was found; the travelling *menorah* of the itinerant Jewish peddler-merchant who carried his ceremonial aids on the road with him through rural America in the 18th

and 19th centuries. Photographs were taken of the rare item in its home at the Jewish Museum in New York City.

Among those who contributed to the search were Morris Bram, Morris Traub, Ed Janis, Mel Wacks, Ed Schuman, Robert Messing, George Gilbert, and A. H. Kagan. Special thanks are due to Cissie Grossman and Aviva Jacobs of the Jewish Museum whose knowledge of Jewish ceremonial artifacts and cooperation finally successfully ended the search.

The very first announcement of the 1976 Hanukkah coin has resulted in a complete sell-out, with many collectors learning to their dismay that their own brief delay in fulfilling the order had blocked their ability to receive one of the Jewish Museum in New York City. filled, announced Y. Avni, of the ICGAM when describing the 10-day sell-out of the coins.

Both the Uncirculated version of 25,000 pieces and the Proof issue of 20,000 coins were thoroughly oversubscribed, Avni told banqueters at the American Israel Numismatic Association's recent Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention.

"We've had to return thousands of orders, thousands of checks," the director general ruefully observed.

The new coins are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis, in past years, dealer orders were filled only from unsold stocks.

A basic reason behind this year's phenomenal success, Avni believes, is

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I received an announcement from a private dealer of an offering of the Israel International Hobby Exhibition Medal set in gold, silver and bronze sold only in sets at \$475. First, why did I not receive an offering from both AINA and from I.G.C.M.C. as to the sale of these sets at a few hundred dollars less back in 1975. Secondly, should I purchase this set at the present time? E.S., Miami Beach, Fla.

A. There is no phase of modern Israel's numismatics that is so misunderstood as the striking and issues of the medals originating in Israel. For the simplification of the question let us only discuss those medals which were struck by I.G.C.M.C. The Corporation *strikes* three different types of medals.

The first type is the STATE MEDAL. It is ISSUED EXCLUSIVELY by I.G.C.M.C. for the commemoration of an historical event, an international meeting of a congress, a festival or a competition and is intended mainly to be awarded to the participants of a current event of prime importance. In every instance, a committee of the Prime Minister's Office commissioned for the specific purpose of creating a suitable issuance, mandates I.G.C.M.C. to strike a specific designed medal in quantities (maximum mintage) sizes, metals etc. All medals of these issues are STATE MEDALS and have an edge inscription of "State of Israel" in English and Hebrew separated by the emblem of the state (the Menorah). There are some minor differences. The silver and gold issues are usually numbered and contain the metal fineness. Some of the bronze issues are not serially numbered. Again, all are issued and distributed by I.G.C.M.C.

The next group are COMMISSIONED MEDALS. Most of the medals do contain the edge inscription. This in itself does not make the medal a STATE MEDAL. For clarification in your mind, remember that COMMISSIONED MEDALS are issued (repeat *issued*) by a non-governmental authority such as a museum, O.R.T., congress, institute, bank, convention and a myriad of the other PRIVATE AGENCIES for the purpose of commemorating their own special event and to raise money for their own special organization. They pay I.G.C.M.C. to STRIKE the medals. They set their own prices and do their own distribution. Some give the medals away at no charge to the participants of a given event. Others have made their medals available to the donors of sums of money to a hospital; viz, \$100 for a bronze, \$500 for a silver, and \$1,000 for a gold medal.

In all cases, the sponsor did not go through an ad-hoc committee appointed by the Prime Minister.

In a few cases like Z.O.A., Stokes-Manderville Games, Ashdod Port, the issuing authority allowed quotas of their medals to go back to I.G.C.M.C. to be issued to collectors on special request at prices and terms that the PRIVATE AUTHORITY set. Usually, these were in issues that the issued was struck with: *because they ordered too many.*

In the case of commissioned medals, I.G.C.M.C. is in reality a *manufacturer* and not an issuer or distributor. Many of these issues have no final mintage. The Authority, unless it indicates its limitations, may have a number of orders placed with I.G.C.M.C. according to the demand

Continued on page 20

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS



by Mel Wacks, NLG

REX ARETAS

The Maccabees never issued a silver coin (as far as we now know), however there are two somewhat similar Roman silver denarii that relate to the historic events of that important period.

In 69 BCE Queen Alexandra, widow of the Maccabean descendant Alexander Jannaeus, died after ruling for nine years. Unfortunately no coins have definitely been attributed to her reign. Alexandra's two sons, Aristobulus II and Hyrcanus II, immediately began a war that was to lead to the Roman subjugation of the Jewish nation.

Hyrcanus won the support of the Arabian Prince Aretas III (of Nabataea) when he promised that once he achieved sovereignty he would restore the 12 cities which Alexander Jannaeus had taken from the Arabians. In fulfillment of this promise Aretas went forth against Aristobulus with an army and conquered him in a battle. A great part of Aristobulus' army went over to Hyrcanus and the people as a whole attached themselves to him.

While this was going on, Pompey had begun his victorious campaign in Asia. Pompey sent a general, Marcus Scaurus, to Damascus, Syria in 65 BCE; he soon heard of the war between the brothers in Judaea. Following Rome's usual policy of meddling in the affairs of its neighbors, Scaurus ventured to Judaea where both brothers sent ambassadors to seek his

support. He sided with Aristobulus and ordered Aretas to withdraw or he would be declared an enemy of Rome. Aretas did withdraw and Scaurus returned to Damascus. Aristobulus pursued Aretas on his way homeward and inflicted a crushing defeat.

The war continued to be waged between Hyrcanus and Aristobulus, and finally in the year 63 BCE Pompey's troops took possession of the Temple in Jerusalem, with 12,000 Jews losing their lives in this single battle. Pompey entered the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest was permitted, but he left the treasures untouched and permitted Temple services to continue. Those who had promoted the war were beheaded and the boundaries of the Jewish territories were greatly reduced, making Judaea a tributary of Rome — ending 80 years of independence from the time of the Maccabean triumph.

All of the coast towns from Raphia to Dora were taken from the Jews, and also all non-Jewish towns on the east side of the Jordan River such as Hippos, Gadara, Pella, Dium, and others; also Scythopolis and Samaria with the regions around them. All of these towns were put under the rule of the Governor of the newly formed Roman province of Syria. This Roman governor, Marcus Aemilius Scaurus, issued a silver denarius in 58 BCE commemorating his victory over the Nabataean King Aretas in 65 BCE, as previously described, and again several years later when Scaurus made



a predatory incursion into Arabia Petra but withdrew on the payment of 300 talents by Aretas.

The *obverse* of the coin shows King Aretas kneeling in an attitude of submission beside his camel. The inscription is *M. SCAVRV. AED. CVR. EX S.C.* The title indicated is *Curule Aedile*, which was a magistrate conferred with the privilege of using the *sella curulus* (chair of state). This chair was anciently made of ivory or at least adorned with it. The magistrates who enjoyed this right were the *dictator, consul, praetor, censors and curule aediles*. They sat on the *sella curulus* in their tribunals on all solemn occasions and those commanders who had triumphed even had it with them in their chariots.

The legend *EX S.C.* indicates that the coin was issued by consent of the Roman Senate (*Senatus Consulto*), and *REX ARETAS* identifies the kneeling figure as King Aretas III who ruled Nabataea from 87 to 62 BCE.

In 58 BCE, in the same year in which this coin was issued, Scaurus held fabulous public games. The temporary theatre which he built accommodated 80,000 spectators! These games were notorious for their insane extravagance and helped ruin his fortunes, according to Pliny. In 55 BCE Scaurus became Governor of Sardinia, Italy which he plundered without mercy. On his return to Rome he was assuaged of crimes but was acquitted. He was accused again in the year 52 under Pompey's new law against bribery and was condemned.

The reverse of the coin featured the Roman god Jupiter (Zeus) in a

quadriga, a chariot drawn by four horses, that was used in battle and in athletic games. A scorpion is shown below the horses' hooves. The legend reads *P. HVPSAE AED. CVR. C. HVPSAE COS. PREIVER CAPTV. P.* Plautius Hypsaesus had been Scaurus' colleague in the aedileship and had also been in the service of Pompey. According to Hill (*Historical Roman Coins*), the scorpion depicted "may refer to some exploit performed by Hypsaesus in the province of Com-magene, of which it is the emblem."

The historical incident as reflected in the reverse design and inscription *PREIVERnum CAPTVm* is the capture of Privernum (an ancient town in Latium, Italy) by the issuer's ancestor, the consul C. Plautius, in 329 BCE.

BACCHIVS IVDAEVVS

In 54 BCE a denarius that was somewhat similar in design to the *REX ARETAS* coin was issued by Aulus Plautius. Reinach indicates that the *curule aedile* Aulus Plautius, "an ardent partisan of Pompey, had probably been one of his lieutenants during his Syrian expedition." He was also obviously related to P. Plautius Hypsaesus and C. Hypsaesus of whom we have spoken earlier.

The *obverse* contains the head of Cybele, mother of the ancient gods, wearing a turreted crown. The *reverse*, in imitation of the Aretas coin, features a kneeling figure offering an olive branch and holding a camel by the bridle. The enigmatic inscription *BACCHIVS IVDAEVVS* still has not been properly explained.

Reinach theorized that "*Bacchius the Jew may have been some insignificant Syrian prince, more or less Jewish, whose subjugation had been the work of Plautius.*" Reinach continued:

"Written records make no mention of this person, but we know that at the time of Pompey's expedition there existed in the Lebanon district several rulers of this kind, holding a position midway between that of brigand chief and of king. One of these, mentioned by Josephus, was called Dionysios; is it not possible that Bacchius is simply the Latin translation of this Greek name?"

And Reinach adds in a footnote that "*The opinion that Bacchius the Jew is Aristobulus is very unlikely.*"

It is just this theory, however, that Ya'acov Meshorer advocates. In a recent lecture (*Los Angeles, December 1974*) he proposed his hypothesis that Bacchius was Aristobulus II. This is based on the event described by Josephus when, in order to win the good will of Pompey as well as of Scaurus, Aristobulus sent Pompey a costly present — a skilfully wrought golden vine worth five hundred talents — which the historian Strabo found still on view at Rome in the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus many years later.

Since Aristobulus' Hebrew name was Yehudah, which was also the name of the country (e.g. *Judaea*), the Romans thought, Meshorer states, that he must have another real name. The fact that Aristobulus' gift of the golden vine was well known and could have led the Romans to call him Bacchus, after the popular god of wine. However the spelling on the coin is not Bacchus but Bacchius!

There was a well known Bacchius who, along with Bithus, were celebrated gladiators of equal age and strength. After conquering many competitors, they fought each other and died of mutual wounds (*Horace, Epist. i-7,20*). This historic event gave birth to a famous Latin saying, "*Bithus contra Bacchium*", which expresses a balance of power. Couldn't the use of the name Bacchius on the coin refer to the see-saw of power between the two Jewish brother-princes Aristobulus II and Hyrcanus II?

And so Bacchius the Jewish-Syrian prince . . . or Aristobulus II . . . or allusion to the famous gladiator . . . will perhaps have to remain as the ancient "*Lone Ranger*", never to be unmasked.

HANUKKAH COINS (Continued)

the timeliness of the design, an American Hanukkiah lamp, a tribute to the U. S. Bicentennial. Since the early 1960s, Israel's Hanukkah coins have presented a colorful series of these festive lamps, including examples of Italian, Moroccan, Russian, Dutch and Babylonian origin.

The 1976 coin's lamp is patterned after a rare artifact in New York's Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., Manhattan.

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the restoration of the Temple by the Maccabees after its desecration by the pagan Syrians. On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, Judah Macca-

bee found an oil lamp bearing the mark of the High Priest, containing a day's supply of oil.

Lighting the lamp as a reverential act, the Maccabees were astonished to see it burn eight days, a sign of divine favor. In present-day Hanukkah observance, one candle is lit each night, in 1976 from Dec. 16 through Dec. 23, (24 Kislev—2 Teveth) with Dec. 24 the last day of the festival.

The 1976 Hanukkah coins were struck at the government Mint in Jerusalem. Proofs bear the hallmark letter *Mem*, and the Unc. specimen the Star of David Mint mark of the Jerusalem Mint.

ALEPH BETH (Continued)

that they receive or wish to present.

An example would be the EL AL silver medal (CM-37) of which 95 were struck. EI-AL could call I.G.C.M.C. tomorrow and order another 200.

The third group of medals are unfortunately listed by I.G.C.M.C. and Kagan under *commissioned medals* and have no *raised-de-etre* to be included in this series. The best examples that I know are the special appreciation presentation items that are given by the Prime Minister to heads-of-state and diplomats such as the Rabin (CM-72) or the Golda Meir Terra Sancta keychains given to secret service men on her visit to the States. They should be listed as non-collectables.

What is listed as presentation medals in Kagan is really a misnomer and is a catch-all for those commissioned medals which were not struck by the I.G.C.M.C. and are so listed because the government does not control or own the dies and no guarantee can ever be made on the final number of pieces that were struck.

In the light of the foregoing, let's be specific with your questions. I too received the postcard announcing the offer of the three medal set. First, it is *false advertising*. IT WAS NOT ISSUED BY THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT COINS AND MEDALS CORPORATION. It was struck for the group running the "International Hobby Exhibition."

I do not know why the sets were not distributed at the show. On inquiry I was told that the show was not a success and that some of the officials deemed fit to have their names stricken from the committee. I have also been informed that the medals have been purchased for resale as a speculative venture.

If it was issued by I.G.C.M.C., you would have received an offering

from not only I.G.C.M.C., but also from AINA. Individually speaking, I would let the speculators stew in their own juices. If I were interested in this set I would buy it WHEN THE PRICE CAME DOWN TO THE PRICE IT WAS TO BE ISSUED AT. This is indeed a rip-off. If we all refuse to buy at this time, the price will be down sooner than you think. It may even be offered at LESS than the issue price. The speculators need you — you do not need them. Be patient.

VARIA

This month we will begin adding new-found information of numismatic knowledge to heretofor published information. *Varia* may be about new coins or simply a correction of accepted principal material. Take out your Kadman *Aelia Capitolina* and make the following corrections.

On Plate II: 15 is 16; and 16 is 15. They are transposed.

On Page 80, Meshorer has examined a better grade #1 and on the vexillum the legend is LE X for the Tenth Legion and *not* the V or Fifth Legion (as described). In #7 & #8, AELIUS has nothing to do with AELIA. It refers to the family name of Hadrian.

On Page 118, #118 is a coin of Caesaria; #120 is a coin of Antipatris.

On Page 106, #137 portrait is Alexander Severus *not* Elagabalus and is the same type as #160.

On Page 94, #72 is a Medallion with the portrait of Marcus Aurellus and *not* Lucius Verus. See Lot 535 of M&M Sale 25.

On Page 110, #151 & #152 are jugate busts of Elagabalus and Severus Alexander and *not* Aquilia Severa.

On Page 120, #203 & #204 are *not* coins of Valerian but are of Severus Alexander. See #155-7.

GOLD JUDAIC COINS

by Harry Flower

In the process of collecting the Coins of Israel, the collector finds that in many cases he will gradually expand this interest to include other issues that are Judaic. We know that the ancient Jews did not have gold in their coinage nor were there any Palestinian gold issues. The first gold coins of the modern State of Israel was the "Herzl Centenary" of 1960. Since this, there have been nine other gold issues.

This article is about gold coins that are Judaic but did not originate in the Holy Land. Although opinions vary as to the "Judaic category" of the following coins, this collector believes that they do belong in this classification. Unfortunately, all of these are quite rare and expensive. Although most collectors of Judaic coins will never have these in their collections, we believe that due to their great interest and to their important historical significance, he should have knowledge of them. The following three gold issues will be the subject matter of this article.

1. *The Gold Daric of Ancient Persia:* The first gold coinage that may be considered "Judaic" is the gold Daric of Ancient Persia. Although these coins were not issued or produced by the Jews, they were extensively used and employed by them. (See Chapter III, *History of Jewish Coinage*, Frederic W. Madden, London 1864 or reprint by Pegasus Publishing Company, San Diego, California, 1967).

After the fall of the First Temple and fifty years of exile, Babylonia was conquered by the Persians under King Cyrus. In 536 BCE, the Persian King issued a proclamation permitting the Jewish exiles to return to their home-

The Gold Daric



Tangier Gold Hercules

land. They were allowed to take their possessions including their money and other valuables. As was stated in the Babylonian Talmud, the Jews returned with Persian Gold Darics that were used as payment in the rebuilding of the Second Temple.

The Darics are small, thick, irregular gold pieces weighing about 8.4 grams (129.7 grains). Some pieces are generally round, others are oval, with diameters from about 11 mm. to about 15 mm. Featured on the coin is the King, usually kneeling, holding a bow and javelin or a bow and dagger. There are many variations of this design. It is believed that the King on the coin is not a specific King, but represents any of the Persian monarchs. The reverse of the coin is an irregular incuse square. There is no inscription. Generally speaking, the Darics are very crude and of poor workmanship; but it must be remembered that these are one of the earliest of all coin-types, over 2,500 years old. From a Judaic viewpoint, the Darics played a significant role in the rebuilding of the Second Temple—a very important segment of Jewish History. A specimen would be a "prize" in your Judaic Coin Collection.

2. *The Gold Coins of Tierra del Fuego*: In 1876 gold was discovered on Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire), the great Island located at the southern tip of South America. Julius Popper, a young Jewish engineer from Romania, heard of this new gold field while in Argentina, on a trip around the world. Being adventurous, he obtained a government concession and official military control of about ten square miles, then organized a company called "The Gold Washing Company of the South." With his organized group, he went to the island in 1887 to extract gold. He was successful from the start and soon set up a form of local government. By 1889, Popper organized his "El Paramo Mint" and struck gold coins, and also had postage stamps issued in 1891. The coins were the 1 Gramo and 5 Gramos, both feature the name "POPPER" across the center with crossed hammer and pick axe. The small coin weighs 1 gram (13 mm.). and the 5 Gramos coin weighs 5 grams (19 mm.). Some have classified this coinage as a territorial issue of Argentina, but other authorities consider this as an issue of a short-lived sovereign state. This would be the first gold coin issue by a sovereign state of Jewish authority in the history of the world. These historical and rare gold pieces would be an important addition to your Judaic Coin Collection.

(For additional information on this fascinating subject: Bruno Kisch, "Judaica in Nummis," *Historia Judaica*, VII, p. 135-158, 1945; Elwin Leslie, "Tierra del Fuego," *Tams Journal*, Vol. II-5, p. 170-175, 1971; Jean Kohn, "Julius Popper," *Philatelic Judaica Journal*, Vol. V, No. 3, p. 671-675, 1969 [Translated from French by Maurice Burnston]; Hans Schulman, "Gold Fever," *Coin World*, Sept. 18, 1968, p. 39; Roni Grad, "Coins of Tierra del Fuego," *Coin World*, May 15, 1974, p. 42, and, of course, any good Jewish Encyclopedia).

3. *The Tangier Gold Hercules*: This is a private issue of a bank in Tangier, the international city in Morocco, North Africa. The central motif of the obverse is a figure of "Hercules," from which the name of the piece is derived. Curved around the rim is the issuing firm "FIRST BANKING CORPORATION TANGIER." The reverse bears inscriptions only, around the rim: "ONE FINE OUNCE TROY (Grms. 31.103) of gold assay 916.7." In the center "REFINED BY N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS R.M.R.". The piece is 26 mm. in diameter, about 4 mm. thick and has reeded edges. It is Judaic, of course, because of the Rothschild Refining Firm. Although, it is undated, it was issued in 1954. The mintage is unknown, but it is now quite scarce. The Gold Hercules would be an interesting addition to your Judaic Coin Collection.

NOTE: This piece is listed in *Gold Coins of the World* by Robert Friedberg, 1965, New York, under "TANGIER," page 372.



Gold coins of Tierra del Fuego

SOME JEWISH COMMUNITY TOKENS

by Robert Schonwalter

With the publication in *The Shekel* (Vol. VIII, No. 4 and Vol. IX, No. 1) by Dr. Meshorer of Jewish charity tokens from Syria, it seems appropriate that the tokens listed below be published, especially since I have been able to find information about only one of them.

1. Within a cartouche shaped border of dot the Hebrew letters "Tsada Lamedh Shin Pe." Overstruck on a copper Lithuanian solidus of John Casimer issued from 1661 to 1668. 16 mm. I secured this specimen, along with some coins of European Jewish minters more than twenty years ago and have not been able to identify it further. It is undoubtedly a charity token (pruta) of a Jewish community in Poland or Lithuania, probably issued after the Russians annexed either territory some time in the 18th century. J. Benjamin Yablock suggests and I concur, that the letters stand for "Tsedaka Le'aniyim Shaveh Pruta" (Charity for the poor. Worth a pruta). The Eastern European Jewish communities issued such low value tokens to enable the most poor to exercise their duty to contribute charity for those even more in need.

The others, all brass bracteates, were obtained together as a lot marked "Jewish Tokens?", and since two are from Istanbul, I presume all are from that city, though I am not certain. They were issued in the late 19th or early 20th centuries.

2. Hebrew inscription "Kof Kof / Saraiko / Pe 5," Star & Crescent. (Holy Community / Sarajevo / 5 Para). Brass Bracteate, 20 mm. This token was attributed to Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia under Ottoman rule, by Dr. Bruno Kisch (*Historia Judaica* 15.174). Arie Kindler (*Museum Haaretz Bulletin* 7) assigns it to the Istanbul community of Jews from Sarajevo. Others were issued there by communities of Jews originating in Spanish cities.
3. Crude Hebrew inscription, "Kof Kof / Sara / Pe 5", Star & Crescent (Holy Community / Sarajevo / 5 Para), Brass Bracteate, 20 mm. Undoubtedly an imitation or prototype of No. 2. The Turkish name for Sarajevo was Bosna Serai (the Bosnian palace). Perhaps this Hebrew inscription reflects that name.
4. Hebrew Inscription, "Kof Kof / Naphtali" / 5 between two dots. (Holy Community Naphtali), Brass Bracteate, 18 mm. I have no information about the community of Naphtali.

Continued on page 32

No. 1

No. 2

No. 3

No. 4

No. 5



SPECIALIZING . . . OR COLLECTING WHAT YOU LIKE

by Alan R. Weinberg

AINA LM #29

All too often I have seen or heard the statement "*No collection is complete without*". It does get frustrating if you can't afford what they say you *must* have for your collection. But there's more to Israel numismatics than complete sets of the commemorative coins, gold medals, the Palestine paper money or the ancients. *Specialize . . . or collect what you want!*

The commemoratives can be collected many ways: only *proof* or only BU coins. Or, you can just collect 1, 5, 10 or 25 pound coins, perhaps just one denomination. Or, Chanukah or Pidyon Haben only.

Maybe a *topic* would be more to your interest. Examples of a *topic* are *Liberation* medals or Independence Day coins. The numerous medals of Israel abound with many topics that collectors can specialize in.

Collections may be organized by metallic contents, such as *bronze*, *silver*, *gold*, *copper*, etc., are just a few. Medals of organizations such as ZOA, UJA, JNF can be located. How about events: *Chess Olympics*, *Harp Contest*, *Israel's 25th Anniversary* are only a few. Topics are endless.

Paper money too can be collected various ways: by denomination, by series, be it Palestine or Israel. But even if you cannot afford any of the above, there are still other items to collect.

PAPER

A trip to Israel means *sightseeing*. So what do you do with the ticket stubs of all the places you've visited? Well, they make quite an interesting collection. *Figure 1* shows a few such



Figure 1: Bottom — Museum tickets. Top: Figure 11 — Coin bag tags.

tickets: All are self explanatory as they are printed in English and Hebrew, a boon to those of us who cannot read Hebrew. *Museums?* Well Israel is one big museum. Many hotels also have stamps as illustrated. You pay to see the place but the stubs are a double bonus, almost free.

Another interesting collection is that of tags from *bags of coins*. These tags are off 25 agorot, 1/2-pound and 1-pound bags. *Figure 11*. Look closely at the tickets and you'll see the denomination, the amount of coins and their face value. Attached to the strings on the tags are seals. The dates of the sealing of these bags appear on the bottom of the tags.



Figure III — Charity Token.

Entry and passage tickets from places, tags from bags of coins: These only scratch the surface. Imagine a collection for future social historians of the High Holy days, both in Israel and of other countries, Israel Lottery stubs and transit tickets are obvious collectables. Kibbutz money has long too been a collectable.

TOKENS

I have found tokens to be an endless and exciting search. I am always coming across new items. Some have come from the drawers of relatives, others have come from the junkboxes of coin dealers. Though tokens can be of paper, plastic, cardboard and other materials, only specimen metal tokens are shown here. *Figure III* is a charity token and shows both *obverse* and *reverse*. The tokens were created for the *General Israel Orphan Home for Girls*; most are usually found in a holder. *Figure IV* is a merchant's token from upstate New York. I have found many other Jewish (or possibly Jewish) merchant's tokens in dealers' junk boxes.

However, my main collection is transportation. (See *The Shekel*, Vol. 8, No. 3). This is my specialty collection. *Figure VI* includes a token from the *Carmelit*, the subway (or underground cable car) of Haifa. An Israel telephone token is also shown; *Figure VII*.

Tokens from one town or city such as Jerusalem make up an interesting theme group. *Figure V* is a *American Mardi Gras Doubloon* featuring Benny



Right: *Figure IV* — a merchant's token; Left: *Figure V* — a Mardi Gras doubloon.



Left: *Figure VI* — a Carmelit token; Right: *Figure VII* — a Telephone token.

Goodman. Though this is the only Jewish doubloon that I have seen it does make an interesting addition to a collection as an event souvenir.

The fact that there is no possible catalog of all tokens makes it even more exciting to seek out a new find.

What do you collect? It would be beneficial to all if you would share your hobby. Write to me at AINA; we'll let all know the results two issues from now. Your response deadline is April 1, 1977.

Do you collect:

- A) Commemoratives:— BU — Proof — Both —
- B) Medals: — which?
- C) Paper: — which?
- D) Trade Coins: — Mil — Prutah — Agorot — ALL
- E) Ancients
- F) Other (list)

Mail to:

Survey, AINA, P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Sta., Flushing, N. Y. 11365

COMPARISON ISRAEL CURRENCY NUMBERING SYSTEM

by Carl Rosenblum, AINA L. M. #6; J. S. C. A. #C-18

A comparison of the numbering system of Israel Bank Notes and Fractional Currency as shown in the *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* by Albert Pick, 1975 edition, published by Krause Publications, and *Israel's Money & Medals*, 1976 edition, edited by Sylvia Haffner and published by A. H. Kagan, with description of the notes, comments and corrections will be of interest to the Israel collector.

In order to make the listing more serviceable, a number of abbreviations and short-cut descriptions will be used. The 50 P and 100 P Fractional notes (Pick 8-12, Kagan FC3 & 4) are generally distinguished by the colors of the front (*first color*) and back (*second color*) and the name of the Finance Minister (M. Zagaggi — Z — and A. Neeman — N) and Comptroller Generals (E. Kaplan — K — and L. Eshkol — E).

(Color abbreviations — B-Blue, BK-Black, R-Red, O-Orange, G-Green) (Example — B-BK, Z-K — will mean Blue front, Black back, Zagaggi-Kaplan signature)

Other abbreviations to be used:

N.L. — Not listed; M.C. — Morse Code strip; AP — Anglo-Palestine Bank; I.G. — Treasury of the Israel Government; L — Bank Leumi Le Israel; BI — Bank of Israel (the 1955 issue is known as the 1st or Aleph issue, 1958-60 the Bet issue, 1968 the Gimel issue and 1973 the Daleth issue) # — Serial number; £ — Palestine Pound which was the same as English Pound IL — Israel Pound

Some mention may be made of the dates used. The date of issue of the series is used. However, some of the variations may have been issued at a later date. For example, the Bet series of the Bank of Israel is listed at 1958. However, the notes with the Morse Code security strip were issued in 1966.

The Bank of Israel 1955 Aleph series has a landscape scene on the front of the notes and an abstract back design.

The Bet series 1958-60 depicts a person engaged in an occupation. The back portrays an archeological item. The watermark portrays the subject on the front of the note. All notes have a security strip. Some have a Morse Code strip as indicated.

The Gimel series (1968) shows a famous personage on the front and a picture of something connected with that person on the back. All have security strips and are watermarked with a portrait of the subject of the note.

The Daleth series (1973) shows a famous personage on the front of the note and a well known Israel scene on the back. Some of the notes have Braille dots as noted. There are security bars in invisible ink seen under ultra-violet light. The watermark shows another version of the personality on the front.

In general, the Pick section on Israel Bank Notes is not as complete as the Kagan section. Many notes are not listed; one note is listed that doesn't seem to exist (Pick 30B) and many series are not differentiated. The listing of Pick Number 1-5 is interesting

but of little use to the collector as these are not really currency, but rather essays or patterns, as they never appeared in currency.

The rarest collectible note in the series is the 50 pound 1948 (Pick 18, BN5). This is understandable when we realize that this note was worth over \$200.00 (the pound was \$4.03) and soon after the pound kept sliding

(in 1952 it was worth \$1. and in September 1976 it was worth 12 cents). It took a rather wealthy collector to put away a few of these notes.

NOTE—Copies of this article printed on approximately 6 x 9 paper for use in the Kagan Looseleaf edition may be obtained from the author by sending him a self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box 24, T. C. B., W. Orange, N. J. 07052.

COMPARISON ISRAEL CURRENCY NUMBERING SYSTEM

Pick-Krause	Haffner-Kagan	Date	Bank	Value	Comments
#1	NL	5/15/48	AP	500 mil	These are provisional notes never issued, all destroyed except one set given to the Kadman Museum. They are not collectible. (See Pick 14-18) No £50 was ever issued. All are printed on one side only.
2	NL	"	"	1 £	
3	NL	"	"	5 "	
4	NL	"	"	10 "	
5	NL	"	"	50 "	
6	FC1	10/48	IG	50 mil	Color variations orange to red
7	FC2	"	"	100 mil	
8	FC3	1952	"	50 Pr.	B-BK; Z-K
NL	FC3A	"	"	"	R-BK; Z-K
9	FC3B	"	"	"	R-O; Z-K
10A	FC3C	"	"	"	R-O; Z-E
10B	FC3D	"	"	"	R-O; N-E
NL	FC4	"	"	100 Pr.	G-BK; Z-K
11	FC4A	"	"	"	G-G; Z-K
12A	FC4B	"	"	"	B-G; Z-E
12B	FC4C	"	"	"	B-G; N-E
NL	FC4D	"	"	"	Same as above but Neeman signature inverted. Many consider this error not part of the regular series.
13	FC5A	1953	"	250 Pr.	Alef series (Variations include light Bet series & heavy paper in all series.)
13	FC5B	"	"	"	
13	FC5C	"	"	"	Gimel series
13	FC5D	"	"	"	Gimel series with menora on left
13	FC5E	"	"	"	Gimel series with menora on right (Menora is best seen under ultra-violet light)
14	BN1	8/48	AP	500 mil	First regular collectible issue of bank notes. Kagan has a few incorrect sizes. Correct sizes are as follows: BN2 75/100 mm; BN3 80/155 mm; BN4 80/160 mm
15	BN2	"	"	1 £	
16	BN3	"	"	5 "	
17	BN4	"	"	10 "	
18	BN5	"	"	50 "	
19	BN6	1952	L	500 Pr.	
20	BN7	"	"	1 I.L.	
21	BN8	"	"	5 "	
22	BN9	"	"	10 "	
23	BN10	"	"	50 "	
24	BN11	1955	BI	500 Pr.	
25	BN12	"	"	1 IL	
26	BN13	"	"	5 "	
27A	BN14A	"	"	10 "	
27b	BN14	"	"	10 "	

Red #
Black #

(Continued)

COMPARISON ISRAEL CURRENCY NUMBERING SYSTEM

(Continued)

Pick-Krause	Haffner-Kagan	Date	Bank	Value	Comments
28	BN15	"	"	50 "	Black #
28	BN15A	"	"	50 "	Red # (Pick does not differentiate color # on IL 50)
29	BN16	1958	BI	½ IL	Black #
30A	BN17	"	"	1 "	Brown # (We doubt this note exists. We have never seen this note without the Morse Code Strip - Pick 30C)
30B	NL	"	"	1 "	Brown # M.C.
30C	BN17B	"	"	1 "	Red #
30D	BN17A	"	"	1 "	
31	BN18	"	"	5 "	
32A	BN19	"	"	10 "	Black #
32B	BN19B	"	"	10 "	Red # M.C.
32C	BN19A	"	"	10 "	Blue # M.C.
NL	BN19C	"	"	10 "	Brown # M.C. — Most common type but not listed by Pick
33A	BN20	1960	BI	50 "	Black #
33A	BN20A	"	"	50 "	Red #
33B	BN20B	"	"	50 "	Blue # M.C.
33B	BN20C	"	"	50 "	Green # M.C.
33B	BN20D	"	"	50 "	Brown # M.C.
34	BN21	1968	BI	5 "	Black # Einstein
34	BN21A	"	"	5 "	Red # "
35	BN22	"	"	10 "	Black # Bialik
35	BN22A	"	"	10 "	Blue # "
35	BN22B	"	"	10 "	Green # "
36	BN23	"	"	50 "	Weizmann
37A	BN24	"	"	100 "	Large Black # — Herzl; watermark profile
37B	BN24A	"	"	100 "	Red # — Herzl, wmk. ¾ Face security strip left
37A	BN24B	"	"	100 "	Small black #, Herzl; wmk profile
NL	BN24C	"	"	100 "	Brown #, Herzl wmk. profile, security strip right
					(Pick lists 37B as Brown # and ¾ face. ¾ face has Red #. Brown # has profile. It also is distinguished from Red by position of security strip.
NL	BN25	1973	BI	5 IL	Henrietta Szold, 3 Braille dots
"	BN26	"	"	10 "	Moses Montifiore, 2 Braille dots
"	BN27	"	"	50 "	Weizmann — Not issued yet (9/76)
"	BN28	"	"	100 "	Theodore Herzl
"	BN29	"	"	500 "	Ben Gurion — Not issued yet (9/76)



CLUB NEWS from INS NEWSLETTERS

Welcome *The Oracle*, first newsletter from the new West Coast club (INS of L. A.) edited by Peggy Borgolte! The well-known numismatist Abe Kosoff was the first of the club's speakers, explaining the roots of the symbols of ancient Israel coins now again in use on contemporary Israeli coinage. *Sad news with the Good News:* the untimely death of Texan Dewey Compton, a leading supporter of Israel who lectured and toured to bring Israel's agricultural achievements to others. He died in a plane crash (en route to a Dallas meeting at an Israel Booth) along with his wife, son and daughter-in-law, reported Harold Z. Nelkin, of the INS of Houston . . . *Shtarot* is the new quarterly publication of the Judaic Syngraphic Collectors Association, a group which has joined AINA. They are all collectors of the paper money and similar expressions. They can be reached at P. O. Box 215, New Brunswick, N. J. 08093. The editor of their newsletter, shaped to fit the Kagan looseleaf book is Arnold Shay of Pennsylvania, . . . *The Holocaust* was the theme of one of the Fall meetings of the INS of N. J. with guest speaker Dr. Philip Newman showing an album of stamps relating to countries honoring or memorializing heroes and victims. Robert Schonwaller showed an Italian Medal of the Holocaust . . . and an Israeli chewing gum wrapper: a facsimile of the 100# Herzl note. (*Wait'll the baseball card collectors hear about THAT!—GG*) . . . An auction of 120 lots at the INS of Central N. J. netted over \$1500, says the club's November newsletter from which the club earned \$150. The club planted trees in Israel in the AINA Forest to honor the acceptance of an Honorary Membership by Morris Bram. On his return from Israel in the Fall, club member Howard Cohen brought "two envelopes of uncirculated 25 agorot and 1/2-pound pieces for club juniors and their friends" . . . *Poulet aux Champignons* (that's chicken with mushrooms, friends) is featured at the January banquet of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles, an \$8.00 per person event at Maison Gerard. Ben Abelson of this group was the General Chairman of the recently successful first Greater L. A. Coin Convention sponsored by AINA. The December meeting of the group was the Blue-and-White Sale, symbolized by an elephant in *The Scroll*, newsletter of the group. *Elephants at a coin club meeting?* Yes: white elephants to raise money for the club! *How does your group raise dollars for printing, mailings, etc.?* . . . Those who received the November meeting notice from the INS of Wash., D. C. got a bonus: the grading data for the understanding of Palestine Mandate coins. (*We'll print these in a future Shekel for everyone else. They were created by Adolf Bondy.*) . . . Nearby in Maryland, INS members learned about *prutot* which Barry Fox suggests could rise in value; he cited the 1949 1, 10, 25 and 50 *prutot* with pearl plus the 1954 *prutot* cop/nick with reeded edge . . . Charles Valentine was the first prize winner of the INS of South Jersey contest to design a club logo. He won a 25th Anniversary silver medal . . . New Yorkers celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the INS of New York with a dinner at the New York Sheraton on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. The club issued a six medal set with INS of NY emblem as the obverse and reverses of Revolutionary War themes: 39mm, bronze, 5-pcs. \$46.00. P. O. Box 518, Wall St. Sta., NY. N. Y. 10005. Members of the INS of San Gabriel Valley learned about ORT and the ORT Medal at the November meeting. The group was thrilled by the *Best of Show Award* won by member Mike Sims at the *Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention* . . . Massachusetts members of the INS celebrated at an *Annual Gala Dinner Dance* at the 57 Restaurant in Boston in November . . . The INS of San Fernando Valley held a *Hanukkah/Christmas Party* in mid-December with time set aside for a guest speaker, Ralph Marx who spoke on the history of the Hanukkah coins . . . Out on Long Island (N. Y.), the INS of Long Island was host to Dr. Harry Newman who spoke on *History of the Jews from Egypt to the First Revolt* in November where plans were announced for the Dec.

(Continued)



TREES PLANTED TO HONOR BRAM
 Alan Greenberg of the INS of Central N.J. with certificate honoring Morris Bram with 18 trees (Chai) for his services to AINA and assistance to the Jersey club.

12 Hanukkah Party at one of the area's swank wedding/Bar Mitzvah centers: the Huntington Town House . . . *The Resistance: Jewish Ghetto Fighters and Partisans in Central Eastern Europe* was the theme of the December meeting of the INS of Cleveland. The group heard and saw a slide lecture readied by the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research . . . Elections for new officers were planned for the December meeting of the INS of Illinois with Dr. Morris Goldberg nominated to be president . . . Dr. E. Mendelssohn presented a talk on his *Ancient Coins Collection* at the October meeting of the INS of Pennsylvania . . . Virginians have been seeing films on the history of Israel and the Jewish people at meetings of the INS of Tidewater, reports *The INSformer* . . .



INS OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

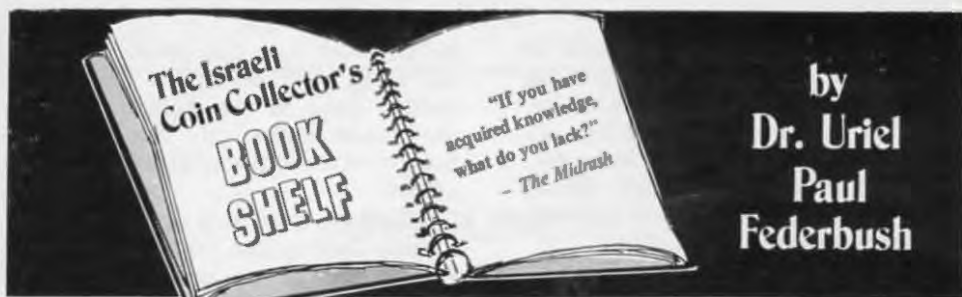
Officers and members of the INS of New York met at the New York Sheraton this Fall for a special celebration: 10 years of a dynamic club. Numerous members present were charter members of the club.



The 10th Anniversary Medal Set of the INS of New York was a sellout in this version. Individual medals are still available from the Club.



Nat Sobel, president of the INS of N.Y. honors individuals who shared in club activities and success.



Ancient Jewish coins are a prologue to the modern coinage of Israel. The spirit shown by the Second Commonwealth and that of the modern State of Israel can be said to derive from the same inspiration—the fight against injustice, and the struggle for freedom, religious liberty, and national expression.

It is therefore right that the ancient designs served as an ideal and model for the modern coinage, linking the two epochs in a concrete way.

In this review, the books most often used as popular and standard references will be covered.

Ancient Jewish Coins, Sixth ed., by A. Reifenberg (Jerusalem: Rubin Mass, 1973). Hard cover. 66 p. + XVI plates.

This book was first published in Hebrew as *Matbeot Hayehudim* (Coins of the Jews). It incorporates the best research of the time, and illustrates the fine collection the author was able to gather. For many years all catalogues listed ancient Jewish coins by "R" numbers derived from this book. It has gone through many editions, but remains essentially unchanged.

It is a concise handbook which begins with the Persian period (4th century B.C.E.) to the end of the Second Revolt (2nd century C.E.). It includes coins that have not previously been published. The coins are carefully described and the inscriptions translated.

The text describes the different periods in which Jewish coins were issued and how the times influenced the various designs, such as the Greek influence on the first *Yehud* coins. The historical review is interesting, and ties in the numismatic aspects to the events of the day. He points out

that the coins show the ancient Hebrew script although it was no longer in use. This was done to stress the feeling of national continuity.

Reifenberg assigns some coins to Simon Maccabeus, an attribution no longer generally accepted. The Hasmonean and Herodian dynasties are covered, as are coins of the Procurators. He definitely attributes the Shekels to the First Revolt (66-70 C.E.) rather than to Simon (143-135 B.C.E.). This had been one of the paramount disputes in Jewish numismatics. The last plate shows a hoard of Tyrian and Jewish Shekels, found together, which confirmed this. An interesting and thorough discussion of this find is in the book. The Second Revolt, as well as *Judaea Capta* coins issued in Palestine are also described. Most of the photographs in the plates are excellent.

(Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period) by Ya'acov Meshorer (Tel Aviv: Am Hassefer, 1967). Hard Cover. 184 p. +XXXII plates.

This book may be said to be the standard reference in the field today, and belongs in everyones library. It was published in Hebrew a year earlier. Dr. Meshorer was curator of numismatics at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and has deservedly been recently promoted to the post of chief curator of its Bronfman Archeological Museum. He represents the best of the new Israeli educated men is this field.

This book enjoys the results of more recent advances in science and scholarship, and reflects the results of research and excavations in the twenty five years prior to its publication. About seventy new types are described in addition to Reifenberg. However, most of the coins mentioned in the book are from the Reifenberg collection.

The book begins with a review of the times which serves to place the coins in their historical perspective. The coins of the different periods are then discussed. In an absolutely fascinating way, the author then utilizes the coins themselves to teach and cast light on different historic events.

There is then a description of the Persian period. For the Hasmonean era there are many changes in the dates and attribution of coins. One of Meshorer's primary points is that the issue of coins began only under Alexander Yannai (Jannaeus) (103-76 B.C.E.), and that the coins bearing the name Yehudah were struck by Yehudah Aristobulus II. Interestingly, the coins themselves, by the change in inscriptions, may indicate a struggle between Yannai and the Pharisees. Meshorer also proposes an interesting theory to explain the minting of the smallest coins of Mattityah (Mattathias) Antigonus (40-37 B.C.E.), the only ancient coin depicting the Menorah.

The Herodian coins are well covered, with hitherto unknown types listed. It is interesting how the author deduces that some coins of Herod Antipas (4 B.C.E.-39 C.E.) were minted to commemorate the founding of Tiberias in 19-20 C.E. Another fact pointed out, was that Agrippa I (37-44 C.E.) was the first Jewish ruler to strike his own head on coins. This no doubt is an interesting commentary on the religious climate of the time.

The coins of the First Revolt and The Bar Kochba War are also discussed. Regarding the Shekel, the author does not completely accept any current explanation as to the identity of the fruits that appear on them. The coins of The Bar Kochba War, or the Second Revolt (132-135 C.E.) also give rise to many historical observations. It is deduced from a hoard of coins that contained Roman denarii of Trajan and Hadrian, denarii of Bar Kochba, as well as an Aelia Capitolina coin of Hadrian, that the founding of Aelia Capitolina on the site of Jerusalem was the cause of the Second

Revolt, and not the converse. Thus the many symbols on the coins connecting them to the Temple stressed the commitment of the freedom fighters to restore the Temple and the capital.

The book ends with coverage of the Roman Procurators (6-66 C.E.), and the *Judaea Capta* coins minted in Ceasarea (70-81 C.E.).

The book is an excellent one, and "M" numbers are now most of ten used as descriptives of ancient Jewish coins. However, it suffers from one disability, which it shares with Reifenberg's book. The organization of the book could have been immeasurably improved by having the catalogue describing the coins, and the plates depicting them, placed throughout the book illustrating the text. Unfortunately, they are placed at the end, in a section of their own, which has to be separately consulted each time a coin is referred to.

ANCIENT COINS (Continued)

further supporting the supposition that the Tenth Legion's soldiers settled and worked in the area.

In the future we will talk about the known information concerning the other Roman Legions which participated in the Jewish-Roman strife in ancient Israel.

Struck upon a city coin of the city Sebaste in Samaria are the countermarks of the Tenth Roman Legion: L.X.F. above a boar, advancing right, dolphin below. A second countermark shows a galley facing right within an incused square.

5. Undecipherable Hebrew inscription, below 5 between two stars. Brass Bracteate, 19 mm. Neither I, nor anyone I have shown this token, has been able to make any sense of this barbaric Hebrew. Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

Very little is known about any of the Jewish Charity Tokens. Should any reader be able to furnish information about any of them his letter to *The Shekel* would be most helpful.

ANNOUNCING

**9th ANNUAL STUDY TOUR
TO ISRAEL**

MARCH 7 through MARCH 21, 1977

LIMITED SPACE — RESERVE NOW

Our largest, most ambitious Holy Land Tour ever! Travel includes ALL previous side trip options: Eilat, Mt. Sinai and south to Sharm-el-Sheikh . . . plus four meetings with Israel's numismatists, visits to three numismatic museums, the AINA Forest outside Jerusalem and our formal dinners.

All-Inclusive price . . . \$1,249.00

\$100 deposit sent to AINA per person
reserves your seats.

OPERATION JONATHAN MEDAL



A LIFELONG MEMENTO
OF THE THRILLING
EVENT AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT
IN UGANDA
ON JULY 4, 1976

IN GOLD, 35mm	\$325.00
IN STERLING SILVER, 59mm	44.00
IN BRONZE, 59mm	7.00

Send orders to AINA or order
through your clubs now. (N. Y. res.—add Sales tax).